



Blue Ribbon Commission on Transportation

The Problem

- Washington's population in 1997 was 5,606,800, an increase of 35% since 1980. If the conservative projections are correct, the population will be up to 7,023,542 by 2020, an additional increase of over 40%.
- Along with population growth, there are a lot more motor vehicles. Truck traffic alone is expected to increase by 30% before 2005.
- Our traffic problems are growing at a phenomenal rate. In 1995, we had 795 miles of congested roads 3 to 5 hours per day. By 2010 that will have increased to 2,200 miles.
- Washington State is the most trade dependent state in the country; one in four jobs here depend on international trade. Within five years, it's projected to reach one in three jobs. 90% of the hay and other major agricultural commodities produced in Washington are shipped overseas through western Washington ports. We need roads, rails, sea and airports to efficiently move cargo.
- There are over 400 different governments and commissions involved in planning, building and financing transportation. It's no wonder it's hard to hold anyone accountable.
- There are hundreds of different funding sources and accounts that are used at the local, regional and state levels. The money pots are not coordinated and are not part of an overall statewide strategy.
- Over the next 20 years projected state transportation needs are over \$100 billion, but only \$53 billion is projected for revenues—a gap of \$47 billion. Highways alone will require \$40 billion, but only \$18 billion in revenues is projected—a gap of \$22 billion.

What is the Blue Ribbon Commission on Transportation?

The Legislature created the Commission because it wanted an independent statewide group of business leaders, elected officials, and citizens to:

- Assess the local, regional and state transportation system
- Ensure that current and future money is spent wisely
- Make the system more accountable and predictable
- Prepare a 20-year plan for funding and investing in the transportation system

To make sure we understand the problems and consider all the possible solutions we need your help. Please take a moment and complete the questionnaire on the other side of the page. We will use your comments and suggestions in our planning and deliberations.

Thank you.

How you can help

Solving transportation problems is vital to all of us. You can help by letting us know what you think. Specifically, you can help in three ways. Tell us what you think about transportation problems and possible solutions. Add your name to our growing newsletter list—print and electronic versions are available. Spread the word about our work.

Transportation Questionnaire

1. How important is solving our transportation problems compared to other problems? Please rank on a scale of 1 to 10 with 10 being the most important and 1 being not important at all. (Circle one).

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

2. What is the biggest transportation problem in your area?

3. What is your suggestion to improve transportation in your area?

4. If you could give the members of the Commission one piece of advice, what would it be?

Thank you.



Please give this survey to the speaker or send by fax or mail.

Yes, I would like to receive the Commission newsletter by: E-mail US Mail Fax
(Circle one)

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

E-mail _____ Fax _____

Company _____

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